

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 as follows:

The invention relates to an apparatus and a process for producing strands in general and tubes or rods in particular by drawing a settable liquid, in particular a melt, from a nozzle as described in the preamble of claims 1 and 25.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 14 as follows:

To allow the strand to be detached from the displacement body as homogenously as possible, the boundary of the displacement body (16, 25) arranged outside the nozzle can end in a virtually pointed tip or a sharpened edge.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 19 as follows:

According to the invention, the displacement body (16, 25) and/or the needle may advantageously likewise be of cylindrical design. According to one embodiment, the displacement body is arranged coaxially with respect to the nozzle and/or the needle.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 5 as follows:

Fig. 4a shows a third embodiment of the apparatus according to the invention, having a nozzle 10, a displacement body 25 in the form of an open hollow body, and a strand 3 which forms a tube. The nozzle 10 comprises an outer shell 12 and a needle 15. The settable liquid ~~[[15]]~~ 35 is located in the nozzle 10 between the outer shell 12 and the needle 15. At the outlet of the nozzle 10, the settable liquid 35 leaves the nozzle at a shell boundary 27 as a hollow strand 3, resulting in the formation of a tube which is drawn in a drawing direction 4.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 13 as follows:

During the residence time of the settable liquid 35 on the surfaces of the displacement body 25, which projects out of the nozzle 10 to a boundary body 27, however, the arrangement according to the invention offers the possibility of cooling the settable liquid 35 to such an extent that when it reaches the detachment region 42 it is at a sufficiently low temperature to allow stable drawing.